





US Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Edition 1, October 15, 2004

# THE COTTONWOOD RMP NEWSLETTER

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cottonwood Field Office is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to guide management of the 144,430 acres of public land administered by the BLM. A map illustrating the distribution of these lands is included on page 2 of this newsletter. This RMP will be prepared as a dynamic and flexible plan to allow management to reflect the changing needs of the planning area over the next 15 years. In order to provide a comprehensive plan, the BLM requests input from you to help us to identify issues and concerns within and adjacent to the planning area and finalize the planning criteria that will be used to evaluate these issues. 

## What is an RMP?

An RMP is a land use plan that describes broad multiple-use guidance for managing public lands administered by the BLM. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to develop such land use plans to provide for appropriate uses of public land. Decisions in land use plans guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. The RMP will accomplish the following:

- Establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives;
- Identify lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses; and
- Provide comprehensive management direction for and/or allocate use of all resources. 



### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Upcoming Open Houses

**Riggins, Monday, November 1, 2004**

*Heritage Center, 109 South Street*

**Grangeville, Wednesday, November 3, 2004**

*National Guard Grangeville Armory  
105 NE 4th Street*

**Lewiston, Thursday, November 4, 2004**

*Community Center, 1424 Main Street*

All meetings will be from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

## Letter from the Field Manager

This is our first of several newsletters that will provide you with information regarding the development of the Cottonwood Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). We have chosen to use a newsletter format to ensure you are kept up-to-date on important aspects of the planning process. In addition to the newsletter, you can visit the BLM Cottonwood web site at [www.cottonwoodrmp.com](http://www.cottonwoodrmp.com) for additional information. The newsletter will be our primary means to keep you informed of our progress and important milestones during the planning process.

The RMP revision process started with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on September 3, 2004. This NOI stated that the Cottonwood Field Office intends to prepare an RMP and an associated Environmental Impact Statement. The NOI also initiated public "scoping", a process used to identify issues and concerns relevant to the RMP revision process.

During the past summer, the BLM selected Tetra Tech Inc. to be the contractor assisting the Cottonwood BLM Planning Team in preparing the RMP. We invited the Nez Perce Tribe and Federal, State and County agencies and representatives to participate in this planning effort. Our Planning Team has been working to document the existing condition of our resources and to identify needs for change from the management direction in our 1981 Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan.

This fall we will be asking the public to provide comments about BLM land management and opportunities for change. Your comments will help us determine important issues to focus on during the planning process.

This first issue of our newsletter provides additional information about our planning activities. We hope that your interest in this planning effort continues and that you respond with comments and ideas at key milestones in the process.

Greg Yuncevich  
Field Manager  
Cottonwood Field Office

## What is public scoping and how can you participate?

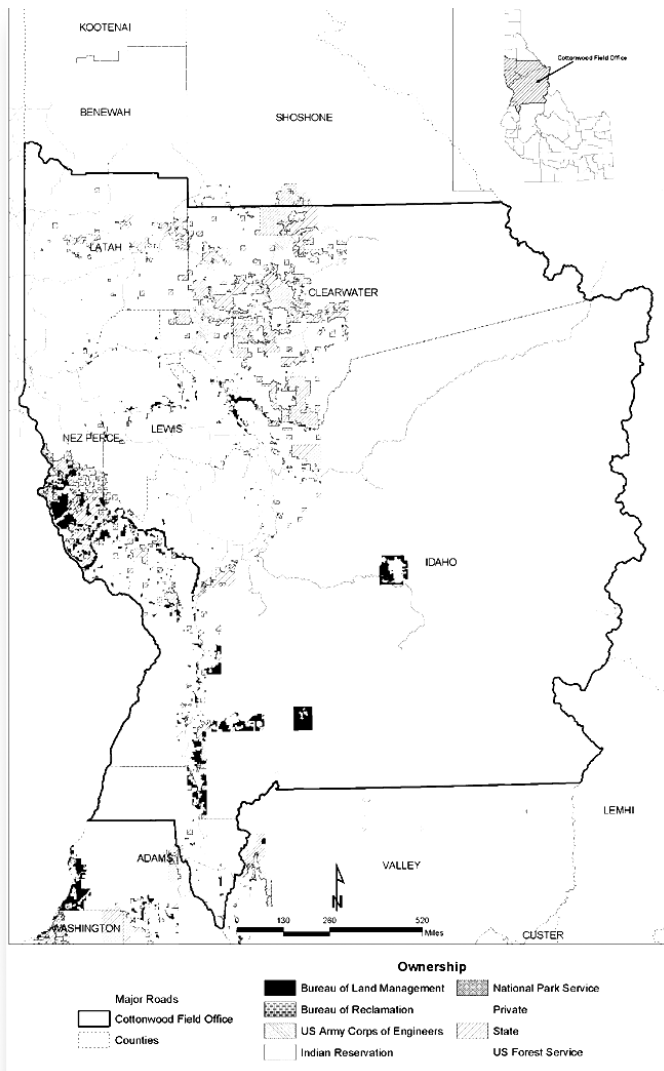
Public involvement is an integral part of preparing the Cottonwood Field Office RMP. Scoping has been designed as a process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and other interested agencies and organizations on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP and the methods and criteria by which they will be examined. The official scoping period began on September 3, 2004 with the publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register* and will continue until November 15, 2004. During the scoping period, the BLM will hold public open houses in Riggins, Grangeville, and Lewiston. Notices will be posted in the local newspapers and distributed within the planning area.

The public is formally invited and encouraged to participate in the planning process for the RMP during the public scoping period. Some ways you can participate are as follows:

- Attending one or more of the open house meetings to learn about the project and planning process and to meet the BLM representatives;

**(Continued on page 2)**

# Cottonwood Field Office



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(Continued from page 1)

- Reviewing the progress of the RMP on-line at the official Cottonwood RMP Web site at [www.cottonwoodrmp.com](http://www.cottonwoodrmp.com). The Web site will be updated with information, documents, and announcements during the initial scoping process and throughout the duration of the RMP preparation;
- Requesting to be added to the official Cottonwood Field Office RMP mailing list in order to receive future mailings and information. **In order to continue receiving information on the Cottonwood RMP, you must request to be added to the official RMP mailing list.** Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list or requesting further information may do so by simply:
  1. Return the postage-paid comment form on the insert of this newsletter;
  2. E-mail us at [information@cottonwoodrmp.com](mailto:information@cottonwoodrmp.com);
  - or
  3. Contact Carrie Christman at (208) 962-3793
 Please provide your name, mailing address, and e-mail address.

# BLM Cottonwood Field Office Planning Area

The BLM, an agency within the US Department of the Interior, administers 261 million surface acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 western states. The BLM is separated into state offices and further into field offices. The RMP will be prepared by the Cottonwood Field Office, located on the southern portion of the panhandle of Idaho.

The boundary of the planning area encompasses all lands, regardless of ownership, within Adams, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties, on the southern portion of the panhandle. RMP decisions, however, will only apply to the 144,430 acres of public land administered by BLM within these counties (see map and table).

The BLM-administered public lands within the Cottonwood Field Office planning area are currently managed in accordance with the decisions in the 1981 Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan (MFP), as amended. Preparation of an RMP for the Cottonwood Field Office is necessary to respond to changing resource conditions, to respond to new issues and federal policies, and to prepare a comprehensive framework for managing public lands administered by the field office. The RMP will establish new land use planning decisions to address issues identified through public scoping and, where appropriate, may incorporate decisions from the existing Chief Joseph MFP.

Cottonwood Planning Area County	Acres of BLM-Managed Lands
Adams	5,470
Clearwater	3,948
Idaho	94,870
Latah	199
Lewis	8,199
Nez Perce	31,744
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,430</b>

**Web Site Address:**

[www.cottonwoodrmp.com](http://www.cottonwoodrmp.com)

**E-mail Address:**

[comments@cottonwoodrmp.com](mailto:comments@cottonwoodrmp.com)

**Postal Address:**

Cottonwood RMP  
c/o Tetra Tech, Inc.  
4900 Pearl East Circle #300W  
Boulder, CO 80301

**Fax Number:**

(720) 406-9114 (Attn: Cottonwood RMP)

*(The insert of this newsletter is a postage-paid comment form for your convenience. Simply complete the form, fold it in thirds, tape it shut, and drop it in the nearest mailbox.)*


The BLM would like to hear your concerns and suggestions regarding the issues in the Cottonwood Field Office planning area, as well as the preliminary planning criteria to be used during the RMP process. Preliminary issues and planning criteria identified by the BLM are further explained in the articles on page 3. **In order for BLM to formally consider your concerns during development of alternatives for the RMP, please submit written comments by November 15, 2004, by any of the methods shown in the box above.**

Following the formal scoping period, **ending November 15, 2004**, the BLM Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) will review your written comments and prepare a Scoping Summary Report identifying the key issues raised during scoping. Upon completion of the scoping period, the IDT will analyze your comments to identify relevant issues to address in the alternatives we formulate for the RMP. Based on your comments, we may revise the preliminary planning criteria.

## Preliminary issues


Based on the lands and resources that we manage, the BLM has identified the following categories of issues. We expect most public issues and concerns to fall within one of these themes, but we do not presume that this is an all-inclusive list and may revise it based on the comments we receive.

- Vegetation management (including noxious weeds, riparian areas and wetlands, and fuels and forest management);
- Fire management;
- Habitat management for wildlife and special status species;
- Transportation, public access, and recreational opportunities management;
- Land tenure adjustments;
- Availability and management of public lands for commercial uses (minerals, forest products, and livestock grazing);
- Special values area management; and
- Tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities.

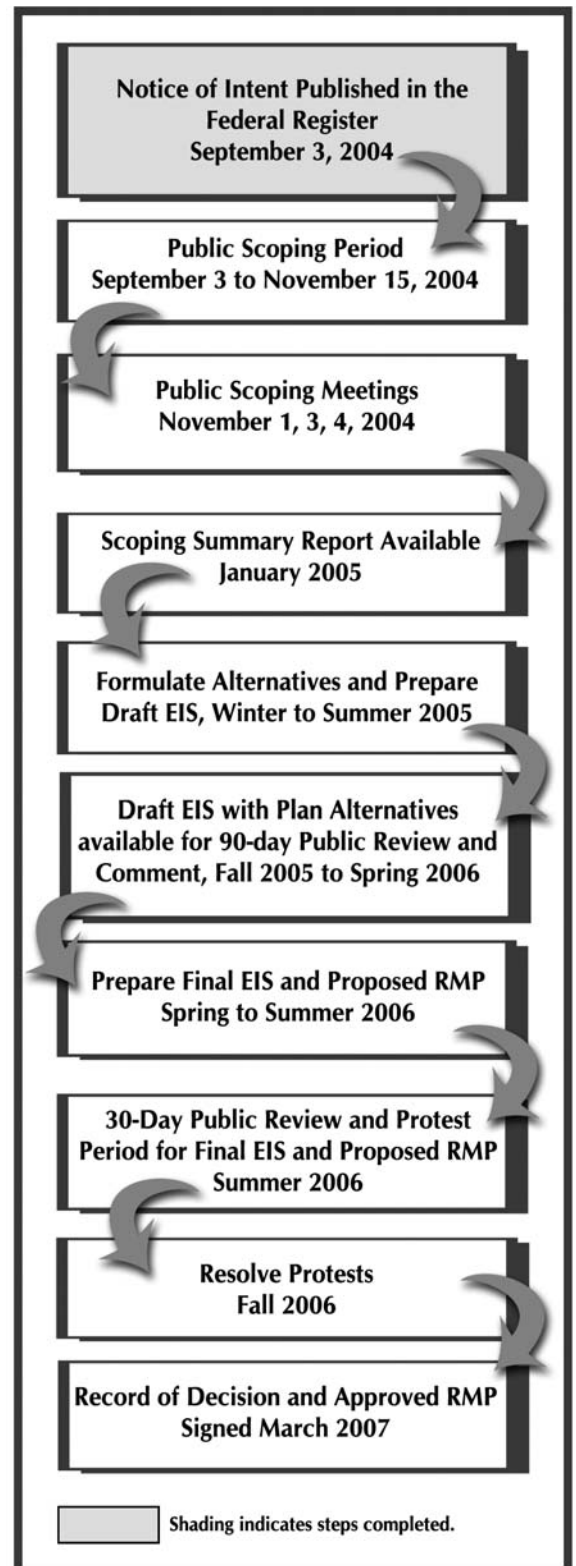
The BLM requests your comments on these or other issues on or adjacent to BLM-administered lands within the Cottonwood Field Office planning area. See the article on *What is public scoping and how can you participate?* for ways to submit your comments. 

## Preliminary planning criteria

During its initial internal planning sessions, the Cottonwood BLM staff developed the preliminary planning criteria listed below. Planning criteria establish constraints, guidelines, and standards for the planning process. They help planners to define the scope of the process and estimate the extent of data collection and analysis. The BLM requests your input and may modify these preliminary criteria based on your comments. In order to submit comments on these criteria, see the article entitled *What is public scoping and how can you participate?*

- The plan will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and current policies. This includes local, state, tribal, and federal air quality standards, as well as water quality standards from the Idaho Non-Point Source Management Program Plans.
- The RMP planning effort will be collaborative and multijurisdictional. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and federal regulations.
- The planning process will establish new guidance and will identify existing guidance on which the BLM will rely to manage public lands within the planning area for the next 15 years.
- The planning area is defined as the Cottonwood Field Office.
- All previously established Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed for wilderness values and character until Congress designates them as wilderness areas or releases them for multiple use management.
- The RMP will recognize all valid existing rights.
- As part of this RMP process, the BLM will analyze areas for potential designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.7-2, and river corridors for recommendation and designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. 

## Planning process timeline







US Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cottonwood Field Office  
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**BLM Cottonwood Field Office  
RMP/EIS Newsletter**

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**Commonly Used Acronyms**

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
MFP	Management Framework Plan
NOI	Notice of Intent
RMP	Resource Management Plan

***How to Contact Us***

If you have questions about the RMP, please  
contact:

Ms. Carrie Christman  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cottonwood Field Office  
Route 3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, ID 83522  
(208) 962-3793  
[information@cottonwoodrmp.com](mailto:information@cottonwoodrmp.com)

**Please visit the Web site at  
[www.cottonwoodrmp.com](http://www.cottonwoodrmp.com)**



**Please join us at a  
Community Economic Profile Workshop  
for the Cottonwood RMP!**

**When?** Tuesday, November 9, 2004 (9:00 AM to 3:30 PM)

**Where?** Super 8 Motel, Grangeville, Idaho

**For more information, please call:**

Carrie Christman, BLM (208) 962-3793

The **workshop objectives** include the following:

- Helping local community leaders better understand their economy and community;
- Qualitatively assessing the area's potential for different types of economic development;
- Discussing local visions for a desired future;
- Brainstorming how the BLM can support community efforts to achieve the desired future; and
- Helping local leaders understand the BLM planning process and recent changes in the role that BLM can play in community economic development.